

REGULATORY FOCUS BULLETIN

FILE TOPIC: Dietary

How often should a registered dietitian make an entry in a resident record?

Although there is no regulatory requirement that specifies the frequency with which a consulting registered dietitian is to make notes in an individual resident's chart, the need to do so depends entirely upon the condition of the resident and the competencies of the dietary manager. Residents receiving tube feedings, with continued weight loss, renal failure, COPD, diabetes, and other high risk conditions may need to be documented by the dietitian at frequent intervals as dictated by resident needs. Licensure rule .2701(d) states: "The dietitian shall spend sufficient time in the facility to assure the following parameters of nutrition have been addressed and that recommended successful interventions have been met:

1. An analysis of weight loss or gain;
2. Laboratory values;
3. Clinical indicators of malnutrition;
4. Drug therapy that may contribute to nutritional deficiencies;
5. The amount of meal and supplement consumed to meet nutritional needs;
6. Increased nutritional needs related to disease state or deterioration in physical or mental status, i.e., decubitus, low protein status, inadequate intake, or nutrition provided via enteral or parenteral route."